

In the 103d Congress, the House adopted a new rule making the names of Members signing discharge petitions immediately available for public inspection. However, the rule change did not specify how such publication was to be accomplished. This rule change codifies the current practice of daily availability of all motions and signatures in a House office, and the weekly publication of new signatures in the Congressional Record. The directive regarding making such lists available by computer is in line with other ongoing initiatives to make House documents generally available to the public through computer networks.

Sec. 220. Protection of Classified Materials: Rule XLIII ("Code of Official Conduct") would be amended by adding a new clause 13 requiring that any Member, officer or employee of the House take an oath or affirmation on non-disclosure of classified information prior to being given access to such materials. Copies of the executed oath would be retained by the Clerk of the House as part of the records of the House.

Sec. 221. Select Committee on Intelligence: Subsection (a) amends clause 1(a) of rule XLVIII ("Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence") to change the composition of the committee from 19 to 16 members, of whom not more than nine may be of the same political party.

Subsection (b) amends clause 1(b) of rule XLVIII, to substitute the Speaker for the majority leader as a non-voting ex officio member of the committee, along with the minority leader. The subsection also allows both the Speaker and minority leader to designate one of their leadership staff to assist them in their roles as ex officio members of the committee, with all the same rights, privileges, and requirements as if members of the select committee staff. The purpose of this clause is to allow designated leadership staff the same access to committee documents and materials, briefings, hearings, and meetings, without having to become committee staff members for such access. A conforming change is made by striking subparagraph (c)(3) of clause 7 which permits the Speaker to attend any select committee

meeting and have access to any committee information.

Subsection (c) amends clause 1 of rule XLVIII to extend from three (in any five consecutive Congresses) to four (in any six consecutive Congresses) the number of consecutive Congresses any Member (other than the Speaker and minority leader) may serve on the select committee, and to permit a chairman or ranking minority member who attain those positions in their fourth terms on the committee to serve in those positions for an additional term.

Subsection (d) amends clause 2(a) of rule XLVIII to clarify the committee's jurisdiction to reflect current referral practices.

Sec. 222. Abolition of Legislative Service Organizations: This is a free-standing provision that prohibits in the 104th Congress the establishment or continuation of any legislative service organization (as the term is defined and authorized in the 103rd Congress). The Committee on House Oversight is authorized to take necessary steps to ensure the orderly termination and accounting for funds of any such LSO in existence on January 3, 1995. So-called LSO's are those organizations recognized through the House Administration Committee in the 103rd Congress which are allowed to utilize Member Clerk hire funds for the staffing of such special purpose organizations. It is the intent of this rule that the Committee on House Oversight will oversee the shut-down of such organizations in a manner to ensure the maximum accountability possible for any funds allocated for their operation. This is especially important in view of the comprehensive audit required by section 107 of the resolution.

Sec. 223. Miscellaneous Provisions and Clerical Corrections: Subsection (a) amends clause 5(b)(1) of rule I ("Duties of the Speaker") to expand the Speaker's current authority to postpone votes on certain matters for up to two legislative days to include the previous question votes on adopting a resolution, passing a bill, instructing conferees, or agreeing to a conference report. At present, the only previous question vote the Speaker

may postpone is on a privileged resolution from the Rules Committee.

Subsection (b) establishes an Office for Legislative Floor Activities in the Office of the Speaker, and authorizes the Speaker to appoint and set the pay for floor assistants to assist him in managing legislative floor activity.

Subsection (c) amends clause 2(d) of rule XI by allowing the chairman of a committee to designate any member of the committee, or of any subcommittee thereof, as vice chairman, to preside in the chairman's absence. The present rule specifies that the ranking majority member shall serve as vice chairman.

Subsection (d) amends clause 7 of rule XIV ("Of Decorum and Debate") to include in those provisions of prohibited activities on the House floor the use of personal, electronic office equipment, including cellular phones and computers. It is the purpose of this new rule to avoid the disruptions and distractions that can be caused by the sounds emitted from such equipment. As with any disruption to the decorum of House floor debate, it is anticipated that the Speaker could instruct the Sergeant-at-Arms to take necessary steps to restore order.

Subsection (e) amends clause 5(b) of rule XV ("On Calls of the Roll and House") to permit the Speaker to reduce to five-minutes the vote that occurs following the vote on the previous question on any matter. The present rule confines this authority to the vote following the previous question vote only on a special rule from the Rules Committee.

Subsection (f) makes clerical corrections in clause 3 of rule III, "Duties of the Clerk" by inserting "and" prior to the last in a series of clauses; and in clause 2(l)(1)(B) of rule XI by striking a reference to subdivision (C) that had been previously repealed.

Subsection (g) is a free-standing provision that permits more than one prime sponsor on the first 20 bills and the first three joint resolutions introduced in the House in the 104th Congress. This is done to permit the Leadership to designate multiple-authors of certain priority legislation.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of House proceedings.

Today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.